

Transition CoP Advisory Council Meeting



Minutes – June 15, 2016

Attending: Erik Anthony, Barb Burghart, Amy Armstrong, Kyle Peterson, Judy Garber, Susan Gerenz, Vickay Gross, Tonya Hertel, Becky Hoff, Tammie Johnson, Matthew McCleary, Bette Nelson, Mary Robinson, Roxanne Romanick, Natasha Sawicki, Laurie Skadsem, Gerry Teevens, John Vastag, Renee Wetzsteon, Cheryl Hess-Anderson, Sam Gore, Dawn Pearson, Summer Ibach, Carol Lybech, Chantel Zellar, Mari Wanzek, Kate Milner, Jamie Hardt, Michael Chappo, and Lynnette.....

March Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

- **Mission:** To work towards building, supporting, and sustaining community partnerships and systems that promote and improve the scope, opportunity and quality for youth with disabilities to adequately prepare for life and career beyond high school with the individualized necessary supports identified and in place before graduation/exit.

ND Transition CoP:

- CoP continues the Advisory Council as a state team and adds a new and ongoing connection to regional teams.
- The membership on this council is actively involved in sharing practices and working on transition issues for students with disabilities with those in other agencies and family members across the state.

Membership Updates and Sharing:

- **IPAT:** Moving to Mandan space – just across the street from the waterslide. Will provide Transition AT to all the schools in ND through funds provided by VR. The agreement is to work with students 14-21 in schools and at home at no cost.
- **VR** – Have many contracts out now to assist schools with prevocational training. There is a format now that can be used when submitting proposals. Schools are encouraged to contact them regarding any AT needs.
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- **Federation of Families** – July 17 and 18 is the Youth Leadership Conference in Bismarck.

- **Foster Youth** – Contact them regarding attending post-secondary opportunities for foster youth. They are in the process of surveying youth.
- **NDCPD** – The ASTEP program will have 7 students enrolled in the fall. ASPIRE is a ND program. 25 youth are receiving additional case management and there are 57 in the program total.
- **Children's Special Health Services** – Reports are coming in for the Statewide Data Base for Autism. The numbers actually reporting are still low. It is a state law to report.
- **NDSCDD Council** – There is an Employment Conference on August 18-19, 2016 in Bismarck.
- **Anne Carlsen Center:** Working with VR in Jamestown for Summer Work Experience and Grand Forks for Job Development and Extended Services. ACC will also again be hosting iCan Bike in Fargo/Moorhead (last week in July) and co-hosting in Minot (first week in August) with Pathfinder Parent Center. They will also be offering **Zot Artz for All** in Dickinson and Bismarck in September. More information coming soon. Annie's House is up and running for the spring/summer season. To schedule a trip there, contact Rachael Buss 701.263.4556. On September 11, 2016 ACC will be hosting the Annie's Story and Stars of Hope event in Jamestown to commemorate the 15 anniversary of the tragedy in NY.
- **Independence Inc** – The program BeYond is being implemented in the HS. They have worked with 200 + students so far. They also have a program called YADA which is working on a community garden and accessibility issues.
- **Partnership Program** – Have a new program PICK SW (this is a program which tries to intervene with the at risk students before they end up in the court system)
- **Designer Genes** – Roxanne discussed the ABLE program. This allows youth with disabilities to have a savings account without it affecting their benefits.
- **Early Intervention Birthday Party** – Celebrating during the week of July 11-15. They are celebrating the positive impact Early Intervention has played for thousands of lives across North Dakota. Look for upcoming information about an event in your area.
- **West Fargo School District** – The ESY is in full swing. Working with VR for the Summer Work Experience.
- **Standing Rock VR** – Looking at creative ways to help youth make some money (turnip digging, Walleye fishing, yard work, etc.)
- **NDDPI Special Education** – Trainings this summer
 - Prevent Teach Reinforce June 20-21 (Bismarck) and June 23-24 in (West Fargo)
 - Supervision for the School-Based SLP training August 1-2 (Bismarck)
 - TEACCH Trainings Aug 1-2, 3-4 in Bismarck
 - Guidelines for Identification and Programming of Students with Emotional Disabilities.
- **Professional Development this Fall**
 - 2016 Northern Plains Law Conference for Students with Disabilities - October 4-5 and pre-conference October 3.
 - 2016 Fall Educator conference October 12-14 (Bismarck)

- State Autism Conference October 26-28 (Minot) . Anne Carlsen is hosting this training.
- **NDDPI Updates**
 - Every Student Succeeds Act Planning Committee
 - Standard Writing – Looking to review and revise state academic content standards in English/Language arts/literacy and math
 - NDDPI Recruitment and Retention Task Force
 - School District Reporting Review Committee

PRESENTATION on Section 511: Cheryl Hess-Anderson

New requirements for employers who hold special wage certificates, commonly known as 14© certificates. These new requirements must be satisfied before an employer hires a youth with disabilities at subminimum wage or continues to employ individuals with disabilities of any age at the subminimum wage level. About 900 people in ND are receiving sub-minimum wage.

Limitations on use of subminimum wage for youth

A youth cannot start work in subminimum wage until the following conditions are met:

- Has received pre-employment transition services
- Has been served or been determined ineligible by VR
- Has been provided career counseling and information/referrals to other public programs that allow the experience of competitive, integrated employment

To learn more about Section 511, attend the polycom training on **June 27 at 2:30 to 4:30 at Human Services Centers around the state.**

A sub-committee was set up to develop a resource for schools as to what they need to know about Sec 511. The Sub-Committee is: Mari Wanzik, Sheryl Hess Anderson, Vickay Gross, and Gerry Teevens.

NCTAT National Center on Technical Assistance in Transition - Susan Gerenz

ND/NCTAT Partnership agreement:

- NCTAT will provide intensive technical assistance (TA) and Professional Development (PD) to SEA, local education agencies and VR providers to:
 - Implement evidence based and promising practices to insure students with disabilities graduate prepared for success in postsecondary education and employment

Core Area – Workplace Readiness Training – 1) Standard Soft Skills Curriculum (critical components, scope and sequence, assessments, fidelity elements, suggested resources) Addresses the teaching and acquisition of Work Based Readiness Skills that include engagement. Deliver instruction using 2) Co-Instruction Model (Education/VR).

Core Area – Work Based Learning 3) Standard Competency-based Job Coach Training Curriculum (critical components, scope and sequence, assessments, fidelity elements, suggested resources) Addresses successful application of above skills (including engagement) to Work Based Learning Opportunities. A) Additional Activity – 4) Peer-to-Peer Job Coach Training Curriculum. 5) Using data from all 7 Core areas to adjust and modify transition services provided in the school setting.

Evaluation – (Pilot – West Fargo School District and the Fargo regional VR office)

PRESENTATION: Teresa Larsen

iTransition website which is from Kansas <http://www.itransitionks.org/update2/1.html>

The Transition Plan questions will help students move into adult life after HS by identifying their interests, abilities, and how to get assistance.

Teresa was given suggestions for additions: More pictorial for non-readers, add the names of the agency folks involved in my plan, links to community services, a section for who could help with the issues identified, etc.

The CoP discussed dates for the next Secondary transition Interagency Conference:

November 7-8, 2017 was selected. Gerry will research potential for that date and location of a venue. A planning committee will be developed during the CoP meeting in Sept.

Secondary Transition in North Dakota - Susan Gerenz (formulated at the 3/16/16 meeting)

Barriers for Special Ed Students
Lack of options for ID, and ASD (18-21 years) for higher ed, employment, etc.
IEP needs more input from family and students and finished before the meeting
Lack of self-advocacy and determination – teach this earlier and have it be a goal
AETs program is underutilized
Lack of employers in rural
Lack of transportation in rural
Communication between families and teachers before the meeting
Some professionals don't invite all appropriate agencies
First time to meet the student is at the IEP meeting at times and should be done long before that time
ILC are not always invited to IEP
Physical accessibility of Colleges/University
Lack of services in rural
More teachers and paras in schools
Inpatient services in some areas are lacking
Funding cuts have impacted counseling services
First responders training when dealing with youth with disabilities

Lack of services for the youth correctional facilities
Lack of professional people to assist with the transition school program
Students and families aren't aware of what universities can offer
Families don't know what to ask for when at the IEP
Parents aren't always aware of what is worked on in the school
Parents don't know about assessments and what is out there
IEP progress report to families does not include the transition goals
Training is lacking for medical issue so they can take care of their own health
ASTEP replication
Losing the AT tool after school
Losing the SS benefits
Only 2 benefit planners in ND

The committee broke into small groups and decided on the following 2 areas of concentration –

- 1) Rural Areas
 - a. Lack of services in many domains
 - b. Lack of employers
 - i. Include age requirement to operate equipment, etc.
 - c. Lack of transportation

Each Regional CoP should survey their members for best ideas that they can duplicate in their schools. Those ideas will be brought back to the State CoP. It is suggested that a guide be developed from the ideas.

- 2) Self Determination and Self Advocacy
 - a. Teach this earlier
 - b. Have it as a goal
 - c. Include career exploration earlier
 - d. More broad awareness of services, resources, etc. than just leading their IEP's.

Matt will be pulling together the ND Youth Group to work on this area.

Practice Group (Sub-Committee) Updates:

Youth Leadership –Matt added some items to the youth survey and it is ready to be distributed. Gerry will take it to the Special Ed group to determine how this should be done.

Guardianship – This group has not met since the last State CoP meeting.

Health Transitions – Tammie said that NDCPD wanted to add some information to the Health Snap Shot manual. They also have some funds available for the printing once it is approved.

Employment – Job Coaching Toolbox has been completed. No new goals are identified for this subcommittee at this time.

Family Engagement Parent Involvement – This is a new group. Kirsten Dvorak will be the chairperson. Other group members are Barb Burghart, Susan Gerenz, Sam Gores, Tonya Hertl, and Renee Wetzsteon. Committee goals include:

- 1) Engage families in transition planning and leadership
- 2) Strengthen family knowledge and skills to support and extend their children's learning at home and in the community.
- 3) Connect students and families to community resources that promote success in post-secondary life.

Discussed trainings such as the 2016 Transition and Youth Leadership conference that would be of interest to families. Discussed how to promote and distribute resources, catalog what materials are available from each agency, and providing info or training to families on how to use them. Reviewed transition binders from PATHFINDERS and Federation of Families, as well as “Hey Dude...” transition guide, pocket guide of resources and the clearing house list on the DPI website. Please send in other resource links to Renee via email. Our next meeting is a conference call is July 14 at 1:00 pm.

Regional CoPs Updates:

Region I: Getting reorganized

Region II: They are looking at a new goal for their Region and will be meeting soon. Jami and Sam co-facilitate.

Region III: Last meeting was in December and discussed agency updates and student situations. Nancy Lundeen and Bette Nelson co-facilitate..

Region IV: Have a subcommittee on rural work experience/employment. They are also trying to meet with employers regarding volunteer opportunities which could lead to employment.

Region V: Completed Transition Guide. They are formulating a legislative paper to be sent off to them once they resume. Developing a “You Tube” channel on transition.

Region VI: In the planning stage for the 2016 Health, Trades and Technology Career Fair in Jamestown. This will be held at the Jamestown Civic Center in November 17, 2016.

<https://sites.google.com/site/httcareerfair/>

Region VII: Had a speaker from ND Brain Injury network at their last meeting. Otherwise, they have updates from the various agencies. Mary Robinson and Lisa Stymeist co-facilitate.

Region VIII: They are doing a “no more meeting” meeting. They send out an email with their topics every month and folks respond similar to a blog.

NEXT MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

